

## **CHAPTER 21 TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS, SYMBOLS, AND DEVICES**

Secs.

- 2100 Placement of Traffic Control Devices and Signs
- 2101 Interference with Traffic Control Devices
- 2102 Unauthorized Traffic Control Devices, Markings, and Signs
- 2103 Traffic Control Signals: Vehicles
- 2104 Flashing Red and Yellow Signals: Vehicles
- 2105 Traffic Control Signals: Streetcars
- 2106 Lane-use Control Signals

### **2100 PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES AND SIGNS**

- 2100.1 The Director of the Department of Public Works shall place and maintain the traffic control devices upon all streets and highways as the Director shall deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

### **2101 INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES**

- 2101.1 No person shall without lawful authority alter, deface, injure, knock down, remove, or attempt to do any of the foregoing acts to any official traffic control device, or any railroad sign or signal, including any inscription, shield, insignia, or other part thereof.

### **2102 UNAUTHORIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES, MARKINGS, AND SIGNS**

- 2102.1 No person or authority shall place or maintain any traffic control device upon any street or highway within the District except by permission of the Director of the Department of Public Works.
- 2102.2 No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any highway any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be, is an imitation of, or resembles an official traffic control device or railroad sign or signal; or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic; or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal.
- 2102.3 No person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit, upon any highway any traffic sign or signal bearing any commercial advertising.

- 2102.4 The provisions of this section shall not be considered to prohibit the erection upon private property adjacent to highways of signs giving useful directional information which are of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs.
- 2102.5 Each prohibited sign, signal, marking, or device is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and the authority having jurisdiction over the street or highway is hereby empowered to remove the same or cause it to be removed without notice.

### **2103 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS: VEHICLES**

- 2103.1 Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting the words “GO,” “CAUTION,” or “STOP,” or exhibiting different colored lights, arrows, or combinations of lights and arrows successively one at a time, only those colors set forth in this section shall be used, and the terms and lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles as set forth in this section.
- 2103.2 In the event an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable, except those provisions which, by their nature, could have no application.
- 2103.3 The color GREEN alone or the word “GO” on a traffic control signal shall have the following meaning:
- (a) Vehicular traffic facing the GREEN or “GO” signal, except when prohibited under § 2211.4, may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits a turn in either direction or both directions; and
  - (b) Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time the GREEN or “GO” signal is exhibited.
- 2103.4 A GREEN ARROW shall have the following meaning:
- (a) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow; and
  - (b) Vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- 2103.5 A STEADY YELLOW SIGNAL alone shall have the following meaning:

- (a) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow signal is thereby warned that a related green signal is being terminated or that a red signal will be exhibited thereafter, or both; and
- (b) Vehicular traffic shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk of the intersection, unless so close to the intersection that a stop cannot safely be made.

2103.6 A STEADY YELLOW ARROW shall have the following meaning:

- (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is warned that vehicular movement in the direction that the arrow is pointing is about to be terminated by means of a steady full red, a steady red arrow, or simply by the green arrow being turned off; and
- (b) Vehicular traffic shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection, unless so close to the intersection that a stop cannot be made in safety.

2103.7 A STEADY RED SIGNAL alone or the word “STOP” shall have the following meaning:

- (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection;
- (b) Stopped vehicles shall remain standing until green, green arrow, or flashing yellow is shown, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection; and
- (c) A vehicle facing a steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right after stopping. The vehicle shall yield right-of-way to pedestrians within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

2103.8 A STEADY RED ARROW shall have the following meaning:

- (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal destined to proceed in the direction that the arrow is pointing shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, the vehicle shall stop before entering the intersection; and
- (b) The vehicle shall remain standing until a green arrow or flashing yellow arrow is shown.

- 2103.9 Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made; Provided, that in the absence of any sign or marking, the stop shall be made at the signal.

#### **2104 FLASHING RED AND YELLOW SIGNALS: VEHICLES**

- 2104.1 Whenever flashing red, yellow, or yellow arrow signals are used they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as set forth in this section.
- 2104.2 When a RED lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or, if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a "STOP" sign.
- 2104.3 When a YELLOW lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past the signal only with caution.
- 2104.4 When a YELLOW ARROW is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, vehicular traffic facing such indication may cautiously enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by such arrow, but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within a crosswalk, and to any vehicle lawfully in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.
- 2104.5 After a driver has yielded at a flashing yellow arrow in accordance with § 2104.4, the driver may proceed, and the drivers of all other vehicles approaching the intersection shall yield to the vehicle so proceeding; Provided, that if the driver is involved in a collision with a pedestrian in a crosswalk or a vehicle in the intersection after making the movement indicated by a flashing yellow arrow without stopping, such collision shall be deemed prima facie evidence of failure to yield right-of-way.

#### **2105 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS: STREETCARS**

- 2105.1 At any point at which a special traffic signal has been erected to control the movement of vehicles turning left across a streetcar track, no streetcar shall proceed straight ahead or turn to the right during the time when the traffic signal shows a left-turn indication.
- 2105.2 At any point where a special traffic signal has been erected to control the movement of vehicles turning right, no streetcar shall turn to the right while the

traffic signal shows an indication for a straight through movement or a full green indication.

## **2106 LANE-USE CONTROL SIGNALS**

- 2106.1 The meanings of lane use control signals and the requirements for obedience to such signals are set forth in this section.
- 2106.2 A steady DOWNWARD GREEN ARROW means that a driver is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal is located.
- 2106.3 A steady YELLOW X means that a driver should prepare to vacate, in a safe manner, the lane over which the signal is located because a lane control change is being made, and to avoid occupying that lane when a steady RED X is displayed.
- 2106.4 A flashing YELLOW X means that a driver is permitted to use a lane over which the signal is located for a left turn, using proper caution.
- 2106.5 A steady RED X means that a driver shall not drive in the lane over which the signal is located. This indication shall modify the meaning of all other traffic controls present accordingly.
- 2106.6 When lane-use control signals are in use, drivers shall obey all other traffic controls and follow normal safe driving practices.